

EI-1416

CG

AB874x

CITY HALL

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West Sacramento 95691

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1951 South River Road
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www.ci.west-sacramento.ca.us

February 10, 2005

Mr. Michael McGuirt
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

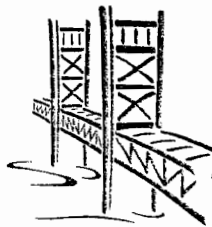
Re: **Historic Significance of Sierra Northern Railroad Line Segment**
Reference: Sierra Northern Railway – Abandonment Exemption— in
Yolo County, CA STB Docket No. AB-874X

Dear Mr. McGuirt,

As you may be aware, Sierra Northern Railway ("Sierra") previously filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately 9.27-mile rail line extending from milepost 90.5 in the City of West Sacramento to a point south of Pumphouse Road, in Yolo County, CA (the "Subject Line"). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2004 (69 FR 76972). The exemption became effective on January 25, 2005.

On December 27, 2004, the City of West Sacramento (the "City") filed a request for the issuance of a notice of interim trail use ("NITU") for the Subject Line pursuant to section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and 49 CFR 1152.29. In a response submitted on January 6, 2005, Sierra stated that it concurred with the City's request for issuance of a NITU. The Surface Transportation Board ("STB" or "Board") issued the NITU on January 24, 2005. On January 26, 2005, Sierra notified the STB that Sierra and the City have entered into an arrangement to convert the Subject Line into a rail-trail pursuant to the above legal provisions.

One of the conditions of the NITU pertains to the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. The purpose of this letter is to convey the findings of earlier cultural resources analyses of the rail line and appurtenant features, and to inform you that the no structures of cultural or historical significance reside on the Subject Line.



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3. Yolo County Historic Resources Survey

The Yolo County Historic Survey Advisory Board evaluated over 300 bridge structures for historical significance in 1986. The Sierra rail line over crossing of South River Road was also evaluated, but did not meet the criteria for historical significance, so it was not listed in the final Yolo County inventory.


Recommendation

The physical features of the segment of the Sierra rail line to be abandoned have been subject to three cultural resources evaluations which conform to standard methods for determining eligibility for listing on the NRHP. The published literature on these evaluations indicates that Subject Line and structures located on the Subject Line are not eligible for the NRHP. No further historical resource analysis of the segment is warranted.

We understand that you will be in contact with Ms. Catherine Glidden of the STB to inform the STB whether SHPO agrees or disagrees with such findings. We hope that this information is helpful.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Dave Shpak, AICP, Parks Planner, at (916) 617-4645.

Sincerely,


Randall Goodwin, AIA
City Architect

Attachment:

Photographs of Caltrans Bridge Number 22C0147

Cc: Ms. Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board
Robert Murphy, Caroline Quinn, Janie Sheng

